

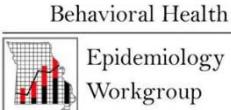
BHEW Bulletin

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Underage Drinking in Missouri...



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- ⊕ Youth who consume alcohol, especially those who binge drink, are more likely to struggle in school, have risky sex and become involved in violence. There are often developmental repercussions as well.¹
- ⊕ More Missouri youth consumed alcohol than any of the other drugs measured. 43% have consumed alcohol recreationally at some point in their life. One fifth (20%) said that they have had at least one drink in the last 30 days.²
- ⊕ Missouri youth consume about as much alcohol as the national average. However, Missouri drinking rates in the 12-17 age group are dropping faster than the national average.³
- ⊕ Girls are slightly more likely to report consuming alcohol than boys. 44% of girls reported having had a drink at some point in their life while only 41% of boys reported the same. There is little difference in how old boys (12.3) and girls (12.8) were when they had their first recreational drink.²
- ⊕ The percentage of youth who report current alcohol use steadily increases with age; for example, a 16 year old is much more likely to report having had a drink in the last month when compared to someone who is 12 years old.²
- ⊕ 11.5% of Missouri youth report binge drinking, defined as 5+ drinks on a single occasion (within a couple of hours), at least once in the last 30 days. Of those youth who drank any alcohol at all, approximately one third (31.2%) said they drink an average of 5 or more drinks per occasion.²

¹ <http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/underage-drinking.htm>

² Missouri Student Survey, 2010

³ NSDUH, 2010